

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 196128

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S/S - MR. GAMMON

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TAGS: PFOR, IC

1. FOLLOWING PAPER RECEIVED FROM MR. BARRINGER, ISA,
AFTERNOON OCTOBER 2.

2. BARRINGER'S TRANSMITTAL SLIP SAYS QUOTE BY CONTRAST TO
ITEM (3) IN OPTION 1 AS PRESENTED TO YOU YESTERDAY, IT IS
LIMITED TO FY 74 AND FY 75. THIS REFLECTS VERY RECENT
PROGRAMMING DECISIONS HERE, AND WE URGE THAT NO MENTION BE
MADE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT THIS TIME OF ANY HOUSING
PROGRAM FOR FY 76. END QUOTE

3. FULL TEXT OF MEMO FOLLOWS:

ICELANDIC OFFICIALS HAVE EMPHASIZED THEIR DESIRE THAT
ALL US DEFENSE FORCE PERSONNEL BE HOUSED IN THE AGREED
AREA AT KEFLAVIK. NORMAL DOD POLICY LIMITS THE PROGRAMMING
OF FAMILY HOUSING OVERSEAS TO 80 PERCENT OF THE REQUIREMENT
IN ORDER TO PREVENT OVER-BUILDING IN AREAS WHERE STRENGTH
PROJECTIONS MAY BE UNCERTAIN. IN RESPONSE TO ICELANDIC
DESIRES, THIS LIMITATION HAS BEEN REMOVED, AND HOUSING FOR
100 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE PERSONNEL IS THE DOD GOAL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 196128

4. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE ARE 601 FAMILY HOUSING

UNITS IN THE AGREED AREA (134 OFFICER, 458 ENLISTED, AND 9 CIVILIANS).

5. THE FY 1974 FAMILY HOUSING PROGRAM FOR ICELAND CONTAINS 150 UNITS FOR ENLISTED FAMILIES. THE PROPOSED FY 1975 FAMILY HOUSING PROGRAM CONTAINS 200 ADDITIONAL UNITS.

6. A COMICEDEFOR FAMILY HOUSING SURVEY AS OF 31 JANUARY 1973 REVEALED THAT 1,360 PERSONNEL OF THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE (MILITARY AND CIVILIAN) WERE THEN ELIGIBLE FOR ASSIGNMENT TO GOVERNMENT FAMILY HOUSING. THE SURVEY ALSO REVEALED THAT 93 OF THESE (SIX AND ONE-HALF PERCENT) HAD CHOSEN TO BE VOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM THEIR FAMILIES DURING THEIR TOURS IN ICELAND EVEN THOUGH GOVERNMENT FAMILY HOUSING WOULD BE AVAILABLE, I.E., THEY CHOSE A ONE-YEAR, UNACCOMPANIED TOUR IN PREFERENCE TO A TWO-YEAR, ACCOMPANIED TOUR. SHOULD SUFFICIENT GOVERNMENT FAMILY HOUSING BECOME AVAILABLE, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THE SIX AND ONE-HALF PERCENT FIGURE REFERRED TO ABOVE WOULD BE A REASONABLY RELIABLE INDICATOR. THEREFORE, THE PRESENT TOTAL FAMILY HOUSING REQUIREMENT IS 1,267 (1,360 LESS 93).

7. THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR AND POTENTIALLY DESIROUS OF FAMILY HOUSING (1,267) ARE APPROXIMATELY THIRTY SIX AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THE DEFENSE FORCE (3,480). IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT A SIMILAR PROPORTION WOULD BE ELIGIBLE IN THE EVENT OF CHANGES IN OVER-ALL US PERSONNEL STRENGTH, PROVIDING THAT THE GENERAL COMPOSITION OF THE DEFENSE FORCE REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED.

8. WITH THE PRESENT STRENGTH OF THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE, THERE IS A HOUSING DEFICIENCY OF 666 UNITS (TOTAL REQUIREMENT OF 1,267 LESS 601 PRESENT UNITS). THE FY 1974 AND PROPOSED FY 1975 FAMILY HOUSING PROGRAMS WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 350 UNITS, WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE DEFICIENCY TO 316 UNITS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 196128

9. IN A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF US PERSONNEL IN ICELAND, THE HOUSING REQUIREMENT WOULD BE DECREASED IN CONSONANCE WITH THE EXTENT OF THE REDUCTION. THUS, THE END-1975 DEFICIENCY OF 316 UNITS PROJECTED ABOVE WOULD DROP TO ABOUT 125 UNITS IN THE EVENT THAT US PERSONNEL WERE REDUCED BY 500 BILLETS. HOWEVER, PRESSURES FOR RELAXING THE CRITERIA OF ELIGIBILITY WOULD BE LIKELY TO INCREASE AS MORE HOUSING WAS KNOWN TO BE AVAILABLE, AND A

DETAILED PROJECTION OF FUTURE REQUIREMENTS IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT.

10. ALTHOUGH ICELANDIC OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THAT ALL US MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE FORCE SHOULD LIVE IN THE AGREED AREA , THERE IS THE DEFINITE POSSIBILITY THAT PRESSURES FROM LOCAL LANDLORDS COULD MODIFY THIS POSITION AS THE MANY NEW HOMES NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE COMPLETED. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT THERE WILL BE EXCESS HOUSING WHEN THE FAMILIES FROM WESTMANN ISLAND, WHO LEFT THERE AS A RESULT OF THE JANUARY 1973 VOLCANIC ERUPTION, RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. KISSINGER

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